

Today's News - Friday, May 3, 2013

- We lose Henry Hope Reed, an architecture critic and historian, a champion of classicism and master of "curmudgeonly barbs" thrown at Modernism + Brussat revisits his walking tour of Providence with Reed: "Meet classicism personified."
- Bates Smart's Vivian weighs in on the debates still swirling around the Barangaroo development: what will it give Sydney? "...an activated urban waterfront precinct. Whether the architecture will deliver design excellence, it is simply too early to tell."
- Betsky's take-away from the Holcim Forum: "It's too easy to lose the forest for the trees when talking about sustainability" (idealism met reality).
- Lubenau's final stop on her tour of Bruner Award finalists: the Steel Yard in Providence, RI, an ongoing redevelopment of an industrial site into "a campus for arts education, workforce training, and small-scale manufacturing."
- Rawn to tackle the renovation of Johnson's 1971 Boston Public Library Branch (a "mid-century monolith likened by many to a bunker or mausoleum") - though locals worry that its best parts will be handed over to commercial enterprises ("Is it too late to tear it down?").
- An eyeful of Rockwell's "treehouse-esque" playground bound for Brownsville, Brooklyn.
- Call for entries (registration and submission deadlines extended!): 2013-14 City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition.
- Weekend diversions:
 - Starting today, Flint's "Free City" will transform Chevy-in-the-Hole, a mile-long stretch of former GM factories, into a spectacular landscape of light and sound.
 - On a perhaps less diverting note, Hawthorne and Lubell continue their hunt for what's behind the possible dismantling of Mount's MOCA show: the curator "took issue with the suggestion that the uncertainty surrounding the show had to do with its curatorial approach" + "The Frank Gehry thing is a total smokescreen."
 - On a brighter note for The Getty's Pacific Standard Time Presents, "Outside In: The Architecture of Smith and Williams" at UC Santa Barbara "examines their designs as a quintessential expression of postwar California ideas about the relationship of architecture to environment."
 - Wainwright and Bullivant find much to like in the Design Museum's "United Micro Kingdoms": "It is beautiful, funny and clever - and may just change the way you look at the world." + It is "one of the museum's most speculative design exhibitions to date" that redesigns "the real world as a thought experiment."
 - Saarinen takes center stage at the Museum of Design Atlanta in a show that "includes things that no one else has ever seen."
 - "Peter Corrigan: Cities of Hope" at Melbourne's RMIT Gallery "celebrates the life and work of colorful Melbourne architect and theatre designer" and "provides a compelling insight into the diversity of inspiration that drives creative designers."
 - Merrick looks at "the arty side of Norman Foster," who has curated a show of his own art collection in a French museum he designed more than 20 years ago.
 - Hawthorne cheers Lambert's "Building Seagram": "it is a study of architectural patronage, one of the most underexplored topics in the profession."
 - Q&A with Dyja re: "The Third Coast: When Chicago Built the American Dream," and "a few of the brilliant people and deep conflicts that made that prairie land so powerful."

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Obituary: Henry Hope Reed, 97: ...an architecture critic and historian whose ardent opposition to modernism was purveyed in books, walking tours of New York City and a host of curmudgeonly barbs.... -- Classical America; Institute of Classical Architecture and Art (ICAA)- New York Times

Blast from the past: The day I gave Henry Hope Reed a tour: ...my first column about Henry, founder of Classical America, pioneer of the architectural walking tour in New York City...expressed his love for classicism and disdain for what he liked to call "the modern"...Meet classicism personified. By David Brussat- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Barangaroo: The Towers & the Fury: Debate continues to rage over the civic and design qualities of [the] Barangaroo development......what will it deliver for Sydney? ...We will receive an activated urban waterfront precinct. Whether the architecture will deliver design excellence it is simply too early to tell. By Philip Vivian/Bates Smart -- Hill Talis Architecture/Urban Projects/Paul Berkemeier Architects/Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture; Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners [images]- Australian Design Review

Sustaining the Conversation: It's too easy to lose the forest for the trees when talking about sustainability......the idealism of construction- and use-oriented sustainability met the reality of how architecture furthers what might at first appear to be a completely different kind of sustainability, that of community. By Aaron Betsky -- Holcim Forum on the Economy of Sustainable Architecture; Lucas Bretschger; Francis Kéré; David Chipperfield; Alejandro Aravena- Architect Magazine

On the Road with the Rudy Bruner Award: The Steel Yard in Providence, RI: ...an ongoing redevelopment of an historic steel fabrication facility into a campus for arts education, workforce training, and small-scale manufacturing. By Anne-Marie Lubenau -- Klopfer Martin Design Group [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Boston Public Library's Philip Johnson [1971] Branch To Be Renovated: ...local residents question who these proposed changes will really benefit...worry that planned development will take away the best-lit nooks from readers and hand them over to commercial enterprises. Still others are thinking on a different scale. "Is it too late to tear it down?" -- William Rawn Associates- The Architect's Newspaper

Rockwell Group Designs A Treehouse-esque Playground for Park in Brownsville: ...plans to turn a 1.5-acre section of Betsy Head Park into a lush and active playground. -- MKW + Associates; Imagination Playground; KaBOOM [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries (registration deadline extended): 2013-14 City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition: design and construct an architectural pavilion on Governors Island; registration deadline: June 1 (submission deadline: July 1)- FIGMENT/ENYA/AIANY/SEAoNY

Flint Public Art Project Temporarily Reclaims and Reuses Razed Chevy Site for Free City - a Large-Scale Open-Air Art Festival, May 3-5 to be held on Chevy-in-the-Hole, a mile-long stretch of former GM factories...transformed into a spectacular landscape of light and sound. - Flint Public Art Project (Michigan)

MOCA's 'A New Sculpturalism' faces uncertain future without Gehry: The major architecture exhibition faces cancellation now that its central focus is no longer part of the show...Mount took issue with the suggestion that the uncertainty surrounding the show had to do with its curatorial approach. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Frank Gehry; Thom Mayne; Michael Maltzan; Barbara Bestor; Lorcan O'Herlihy; Christopher Mount- Los Angeles Times

Where's the Money, MOCA? Questions surround the possible cancellation of "A New Sculpturalism: Contemporary Architecture in Southern California": The real reason, Christopher Mount said: ...Jeffrey Deitch, who halted installation of the show...claiming that money for the undertaking had run out. Mount, however, says there is plenty of money left..."The Frank Gehry thing is a total

smokescreen..." By Sam Lubell- The Architect's Newspaper

"Outside In: The Architecture of Smith and Williams": From 1946 to 1973, Whitney Smith and Wayne Williams, designed more than 800 projects...examines their designs as a quintessential expression of postwar California ideas about the relationship of architecture to environment, of building to site, of inside to outside...at the UC Santa Barbara Art, Design & Architecture Museum through June 16. -- Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in L.A. [images]- University of California
<http://www.ia.ucsb.edu/pa/display.aspx?pkey=2994>

Are nuclear trains and cars made of skin the future of travel? "United Micro Kingdoms: A Design Fiction" at London's Design Museum explores an alternative Britain governed by four extreme lifestyle tribes. Are you a Bioliberal or a Digitalarian? It is beautiful, funny and clever – and may just change the way you look at the world. By Oliver Wainwright -- Dunne & Raby [images]- Guardian (UK)

Dunne and Raby's fictional UK explored in their new Design Museum exhibition: ...one of its most speculative design exhibitions to date...by leading avant-garde designers and educators..."United Micro Kingdoms: A Design Fiction"...borrow methods from industrial design, architecture, politics, science, sociology, literature and art to redesign the real world as a thought experiment... By Lucy Bullivant- Urbanista.org

Museum of Design Atlanta exhibit 'goes against the tide': "Eero Saarinen: A Reputation for Innovation": Curator Mina Marafet...said she wanted to feature projects others had not touched on. "It includes things that no one else has ever seen"...- Neighbor Newspapers (Georgia)

"Peter Corrigan: Cities of Hope": An exhibition at RMIT Gallery celebrates the life and work of colourful Melbourne architect and theatre designer...allows a rare glimpse into the mind of this architect...provides a compelling insight into the diversity of inspiration that drives creative designers. -- Edmond & Corrigan [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

The arty side of Norman Foster in France: [He] designed the Carré d'Art in Nîmes, France, more than 20 years ago. Now he's about to curate his first art show in it, largely made up of works by the artists he collects...glimpse a side of him that has nothing to do with architectural efficiencies or iconic design..."Moving, Norman Foster on Art" - 3 May to 15 September. By Jay Merrick- Independent (UK)

The Art of Patronage: Mies and Johnson would never have gotten to work on the Seagram Building if not for Phyllis Lambert. "Building Seagram" demonstrates the complexity—and importance—of the architect and client relationship...it is a study of architectural patronage, one of the most underexplored topics in the profession. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Mies van der Rohe; Philip Johnson- Architect Magazine

Through Art And Industry, Chicago Shaped America: Q&A with Thomas Dyja about his new book, "The Third Coast: When Chicago Built the American Dream," and a few of the brilliant people and deep conflicts that made that prairie land so powerful. - National Public Radio (NPR)



-- COBE + Transform: BIBLIOTEKET / THE LIBRARY, Copenhagen, Denmark
-- Braga, Porto, Cascais, Marco de Canavezes, Lisbon: Portugal is one of the few countries where you can actually see the political development manifest itself in the architecture. -- Álvaro Siza Vieira; Eduardo Souto de Moura

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